

Intimations.

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HAVE JUST RECEIVED A FURTHER SUPPLY

OF

MONTSEKAT LIME FRUIT JUICE,

CORDIALS,

JUJUBES, and

TABLETS.

MAWSON & SWAN'S

NEW PATENT WATER FILTERS.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,

Established A.D. 1841.

Hong Kong, 8th May 1888.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1888.

A SIGNIFICANT feature of the meeting of the shareholders of the Pungin Co. on Thursday last was the strict avoidance by all the speakers of any direct reference to the position of this much belated gold mining enterprise as a going business concern. Enough, and to spare, was said regarding the keeping back by the Directors of the manager's reports and other information from the mine, but in every instance these attacks on the Board, although admittedly justifiable, were made for personal and purely selfish motives of speculation, and not in any sense for the benefit or in the interests of legitimate investors in the Company's stock. All that Mr. Candler, who was the leading spirit of the opposition, required, was the publication of any reports received from the mine; he frankly admitted that he desired this information for speculative purposes, and as a mining expert, it goes for the saying that "information about assays, or other technical matters connected with mining, would have proved far more valuable to him in guiding his speculations than it possibly could have done to the general body of shareholders." A report that would have been "volapuk to the general public, might have proved of especial value to a practical miner in the local share market." However, although it apparently never struck any shareholders to question the Board of Directors as to the stability and prospects of the Company, a glance through the several reports issued and a few minutes' study of the latest balance-sheet will show that the situation is sufficiently unsatisfactory, not to say alarming, to have called for some inquiry. Let us briefly glance at the position.

The original capital of the Company was \$400,000, but for some reason or other three thousand one hundred and seventy six shares have not been fully paid up, so that a sum of \$15,880 has for the present to be placed in "suspense." That, of course, is quite immaterial, as the shares are at present quoted at 20 per cent. premium, and we only call attention to this particular item as no explanation was offered by the Directors, nor did any shareholder think it worth while to make inquiry. The Company was first started over two and a half years ago, mining operations in some shape or other have been carried on ever since, and, roughly speaking, up to the 30th September, 1887, the sum of close upon \$300,000 had been expended without a return of a single cent, having been made to the shareholders. So that by the Directors' own figures, the total amount of capital left to bring the undertaking to a successful issue is, to take the Chairman's statement as approximately accurate, somewhere about \$90,000. Mr. Brodie is of opinion, an opinion we presume shared by the other members of the Board, that this sum is amply sufficient for all requirements, and that the Company is in a thoroughly reliable position. We venture to dissent from this view on the grounds that although the expenditure for labour and general working expenses, not including cost of estate, machinery, tools, etc., since operations first commenced, exceed \$100,000, not one cent has yet been returned as "earnings," and that the reports from the mines both as to the extent and value of the minerals and the efficiency of the machinery are the reverse of encouraging. It may be admitted that the Company has been singularly unfortunate, or that the Directors have been extremely easy-going or short-sighted. Mr. Becker is the fourth manager who has been placed in charge of the mine within the short space of two years. The Directors, for reasons never made public, "decided to dispense with the services of Mr. T. J. Haverton," the expert on whose plan the enterprise was practically formed; they then "did not think it expedient looking to the position of things, to re-engage Mr. Becker," whom they had

previously described as an experienced mining engineer; their next manager, Mr. A. J. Shannon, accidentally met his death shortly after arriving at the works; and finally the valuable services of Mr. HARRY M. BECKER, "a mineralogist, metallurgist and mining engineer of considerable experience, and having high testimonials," were secured, and the Directors—who as a matter of fact know absolutely nothing about the matter—state that they are inclined to believe that they have at last secured "a most suitable man." The only reasonable conclusion that can be arrived at is that the affairs of the Company, from the commencement up to the present time, have been hopelessly muddled by gross mismanagement; how far the Directors are responsible for this is a question we are not in a position to satisfactorily settle. It is likely enough that their movements have been greatly impeded by the long distance separating Pahang from Hongkong, which necessitates their supervision in business management being of the most nominal character. However, the ominous facts, remain that the expenditure of \$100,000 in working charges has as yet produced nothing, that no clearly defined prospects of profitable returns are even now visible, and that unless a "bonanza" in gold or tin is struck by this time next year, the balance of available funds will have vanished, leaving the two unpleasant alternatives of declaring the business a failure, or of increasing the capital by the creation of new shares as specially provided by the Articles of Association. We have stated that at present the Company's scrip is quoted at 20 per cent. premium, although no dividend has ever been paid and no probability of such a thing in the near future. For speculative purposes, "Pungin" may be worth \$12 per share; but taking the stock as a sound investment, this article has been written in vain if it has not clearly demonstrated that this scrip should, according to the information now before the public, be quoted at something like 50 per cent. discount.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter.)

HUNGARY AND FRANCE

LONDON, May 28th.

M. Tisza, President of the Hungarian Chamber, has announced that Hungary will abstain from taking any part in the Paris Exhibition as he fears complications in the present excited state of French feeling, in the event of the political situation becoming more involved.

THE CASPIAN-SAMARCAUND RAILWAY.
The Caspian-Samarcaund Railway has been opened.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE Ocean Steamship Co.'s steamer *Telamon*, from Liverpool, left Singapore yesterday afternoon for this port, and is due on the 4th prox.

AN Emergency meeting of Victoria Lodge, No. 1025, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

MR. WOODHOUSE (this morning held at 10 a.m., at 253 Queen's Road Central, \$50 for having in his possession five tael of smuggled opium, with pipes, lamps, &c. P.C. McDougall found them in the premises, the previous day. Samaritan Spooner, who prosecuted, paid the fine.

SAYS the *N. Y. Herald*:—The Crown Prince William of Germany is said to be wild, warlike, ambitious of a military renown, to hate his mother, quarrel with his father, refuse to drink French wine and subservient to Bismarck. "With his coming war will surely come." From the rumors that float from the gossip centers of Europe it would appear that the young Prince on the steps of the throne was another Philip of Spain.

APOLINARIA ANDRADE, a married woman, residing at 13, Tank Lane, walked up to the Police Court this morning and charged a man named Sorters with assault and battery on the 27th inst. Madame Andrade explained that on the day mentioned at 4.30 p.m. the person in the dock intruded himself into her private apartment and threw her down on to a bed, pressing her down all the time and putting his hand over her mouth. She resisted and screamed for a constable, and finally got away from the man and ran down stairs calling out for the police. Defendant followed her down stairs, struck her, knocked her down, and then kicked her in the left side; he also called her very bad names and accused her of having been very naughty with other men. She had seen defendant before, but had never spoken to him. She had never had any engagement with him at all. She had a legal husband who was at present in Shanghai. Mr. Sorters, on being called on for his defence, said he was walking along the street when the woman called to him to go up stairs and on getting there she asked him for the loan of \$2. He gave it to her, and she told him to call again at 7.30 when she would repay the loan. He denied having taken any liberties with the lady or having used bad language. Mr. Sercombe-Smith, however, accepted the fair complainant's version of the interesting little comedy, and requested defendant to ante up five dollars for the benefit of the Treasury, which Mr. Sorters cheerfully agreed to do and went on his way rejoicing.

MR. C. D. Harman, agent of the O. & O. S. S. Co., informs us that the steamer *Belgia*, with mails, &c., from San Francisco to the 13th inst., has arrived at Yokohama, and will leave for this port to-morrow.

IT is not yet settled, says the Rome correspondent of the *London Post*, whether Commander Malvano, late Director of Politics at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will go to Japan as Minister Plenipotentiary, Commander Malvano has already been received by Signor Crispi to take leave, yet some papers say that he will remain in Italy at the disposal of the Foreign Office.

WE cannot quite see through the motive of the visit to Japan of several brewers from the Rhine, who are reported to have started for the Far East in order to influence the German beer trade in the Land of the Rising Sun. All the beer we have seen in Japan, and the quantity was not limited, was distinctly German in appearance, taste and description. Perhaps it may have been German beer brewed in Japan, or in the United States, and in such case the visit of the Rhine brewers is comprehensible.

THE Peak Tramway commenced operations this morning, the first car leaving St. John Place punctually at 8 o'clock, and the succeeding cars being despatched according to the Co's Time Table. A few passengers, ladies included, availed themselves of the opportunity to enjoy a ramble over the breezy hills in the morning—an extremely healthy diversion which we will never tire of recommending to residents in the lower levels after the oppressive nights which they have to endure in this season.

THE Shanghai *Courier* hears that Herr Von Mollendorff is shortly expected to return to Korea to fill his old post as adviser to the King and Chief Commissioner of Customs. It has always been understood that Li Hung-chang had a high opinion of Mr. Von Mollendorff's abilities and services to China. Can this new movement be the outcome of the Viceroy's recent sharp reminder to the Korean monarch that the independent action of the Korean diplomatic representatives abroad was not in accordance with the permission granted by the Emperor of China to his vassal? It seems more than likely.

W. E. RUSSELL, otherwise Warner, late manager of the Singer Manufacturing Company at Calcutta, was charged on remand this morning with embezzling 1,000 rupees. The prisoner had been accommodated with a seat, and was not kept in the dock. Detective Sergeant Mann asked for a further remand for a week, which was granted. The reason was that the officer from Calcutta was a passenger by the *Arratoon* steamer, which was wrecked on the Sumatra coast last week. He is expected by the steamer, which is bringing on the cargo, on the 2nd June. We understand that the prisoner admits having been the manager of the Singer Co., but asserts that his only offence was the seduction of a girl. A palliation, truly.

SNAKES are proverbially fond of whisky, and therefore we are not greatly surprised to read that a colony of these excellent judges of wholesome liquor recently took possession of the cellar of Colonel Irvine, Richmond, Kentucky, in which were stored three barrels of Anderson county whisky, fourteen years old. The Colonel had left the bungholes open in order to mellow the whisky. On showing it to some visiting friends one morning he was surprised to find that only about two gallons were left. In one barrel over forty large black snakes were discovered, all in a beastly state of intoxication, while in the dark corners of the cellars, groups of rattlesnakes were coiled, some sobering up, while others were in various stages of intoxication. They had gone in through a hole in the basement door, and as Colonel Irvine had been away with his family for about three months, it is supposed the snakes, not being disturbed, stayed with the whisky, and did not draw a sober breath during all that time. Patrick Cunningham was called in, and he succeeded in killing over 3,000 within two weeks, receiving for his services \$10 per 1,000. This is a pretty tall yarn to swallow, but we think we can manage to digest it.

MR. A. F. SMITH, residing at the Peak, was this morning summoned before Mr. H. L. Woodhouse by the Inspector of Nuisances for neglecting on the 28th inst. to supply his house with a suitable dust-box, and also for permitting abatement water to flow from his tenement to the collecting area of the Pok-fu-lum Reservoir, thereby creating a nuisance. Inspector Germain said the dust box complained of was a wooden case about three feet by two, leaky and without a cover. The water from the bath-room flowed down the side channels and discharged into a gully near the public road, and thence into the water-shed which fed the reservoir of drinking water at Pok-fu-lum. The box was not a nuisance to the neighbourhood exactly, nor would it possibly affect the health of the surrounding community, only it was not in accordance with regulations and was unsuitable for the house and the people living in it. Defendant explained that on the 15th inst. he received a letter from the Secretary to the Sanitary Board in reference to the Sanitary regulations for the hill district. In the house in which he lived there were four occupants besides himself, and he possessed but one room. Each room had a bathing place, the water from which was used for watering the garden. The bath water did not flow into the channels by the road side, but into casks, and any leakage that might occur found its way to the private grounds and over a distance of 150 feet from the public walk. After receiving the letter from the Sanitary Board defendant got another cask in order to hold all kitchen refuse water. He was not aware that anything more was necessary, and had heard no more about the matter until receipt of the summons. The Sanitary Board had not cautioned him in any way, and he was under the impression that everything necessary had been done. His Worship adjourned the case till June 1st at 10 a.m.

THE Hospital ship *Meane* has been towed off to a new anchorage opposite Yau-ma-ti.

A BLIND Chinaman was charged before Mr. Woodhouse this morning with singing in an adjoining street yesterday. He said they asked him to go and sing. Shade of Orpheus! a respectable Chinese singer is bad enough, but an old, one-eyed Chinaman! Discharged—open to fresh engagements.

WE publish without comment the melancholy and deplorable fact that a Spanish Protestant clergyman, Señor Vila, has been condemned to imprisonment for two years, four months and one day, and to a fine of two hundred and fifty francs and costs, by the Criminal Court at Malaga, for having discussed and condemned the dogmas of the Roman Catholic Church in a pamphlet which he published in answer to the attack of a Catholic priest from Paris, who came to Malaga and published a pamphlet against the Protestant religion.

MR. F. P. Foster, residing at "Beausite" in the Hill district was this morning summoned before Mr. Woodhouse at the instance of the Inspector of Nuisances for neglecting on the 28th inst. to furnish his house with a suitable "dust box" and further for unlawfully allowing drainage water from his house to flow into the side channels near the road, thereby creating a nuisance. Complainant said he found the receptacle intended to hold the rubbish of the house in a neglected and broken condition without a cover and not at all suitable for a dust box. The bath room waters from the house were discharged into the side channels outside the residence and came out on to the hill side about 150 feet above Mr. Wright's house. These waters were a nuisance to all who passed along the road, in consequence of the villanous smell, and many complaints had been made about it. A letter was addressed to Mr. Foster on the subject about May 10th, but no attention appeared to have been paid to it. Defendant said the dust box was a strong 3 doz. wine case and was placed at some distance from the road where it could not be offensive to anyone. The Inspector went round about two weeks ago with a list asking people to write to the Surveyor General with a view to have the drains covered and connected. Nobody had informed him in what respect he was not complying with the regulations of the Sanitary Board. With regard to the Bath Room waters something had been said about connecting them with the new drains which had been constructed to run down to Aberdeen and which discharge between Wright's house and Vernon's. Mr. Germain on being recalled said he had heard the defence but was not aware about the drains as stated by Mr. Foster; however, he did not intend to dispute the facts. The case was adjourned till the 1st June at 11 a.m.

MURDER IN TANK LANE.

The investigation into this case, in which two Chinese coolies and a washerman are charged with the murder of Ng A-sin, a bricklayer, was resumed this morning at the Magistracy before Mr. Sercombe Smith, Mr. H. L. Dennis appearing for the prosecution and Mr. J. F. Webber for the defence of the first prisoner.

LI A-KUN.—I am a coolie living at No. 25 Ladder Street, and rent a room from the first prisoner for 45 cents a month. On the day Ng A-sin was attacked, Kwong Ming, the first prisoner, came to my room and stayed for half an hour. I am sure he had not been out before coming to see me.

TAM HO, examined by Mr. Webber, said:—I am a married woman living in a cock-loft at No. 25, Ladder Street, and have been there twelve years. The day of the fight I remember to have been the 18th inst., when I saw the first prisoner at his home about 12.30, at which time he went out. We had a conversation about poverty, riches and other things before he went.

By Mr. Dennis:—I am a seamstress and do all my work in the cock-loft, which is on the first floor. I know Li A-kun; he got better from his illness on the 20th inst. and went to his work as a chair coolie, in the Wanchai district.

LI A-KU, examined by Mr. Webber:—I am a coolie living at 25, Ladder Street, where I have resided about three years. I know the first prisoner; he is a washerman. I saw him on the 18th inst. at 10 a.m. when I had a general conversation with him.

By Mr. Dennis:—Li A-kun was ill with fever about four days, but I don't know whether he had a doctor. I am a cargo coolie.

WONG TONG.—I am a cook at the San Kee shop, No. 24 Tank Lane. I saw the fight there and the men engaged in it, but did not see the first prisoner. I saw the 2nd and 3rd prisoners.

By Mr. Dennis:—I do not know a person named Li A-kun. Two days ago I went to the lawyer's office with a woman and another man. I have never known the first prisoner and never saw him before to-day. The woman came to me and said this was a false charge, that somebody was suffering wrongfully, and that if I saw the fight I would come forward as a witness!

By the Court:—I remember the 18th inst. and hearing a noise in the street about 10.30 a.m. I came out and saw a crowd of about ten people creating a disturbance and fighting with poles and sticks, just outside our door. While I was standing there they went by, fighting all the time, for about fifteen minutes, and passed up the street. I saw the 3rd prisoner carrying a stick about five feet long, holding it in his hand and chasing after people. I did not see him strike anybody, and then I went inside and saw nothing more.

MR. WEBBER:—These are all the witnesses I propose to call, your Worship.

LI A-KUN recalled.—That is my photograph and license; I got it in December of last year. I don't keep my chair in Tank Lane but my fohi lives there at No. 23.

WONG PO CHU.—I am Mr. Webber's clerk. I remember the first witness coming to our office. I asked him his name and address and whether he remembered the fight. He said he saw it and thought he would be able to recognize the fighters. I gave him the names of the three prisoners, and others described the persons of the defendants to him. He said if he saw them he could recognize them.

By Mr. Dennis:—It was either Monday or Saturday when I saw Wong Tong. It was on Monday morning, I now remember, between 9 and 11 o'clock. A man and a woman came with him; the woman who was examined here to-day. LI A-KUN was not with him, also. I saw him at our office on Friday or Saturday. The first

witness said he remembered the fight, which he saw on rushing out of his shop; he said there was a large number of men engaged but I did not ask him how many, nor what weapons they were fighting with.

This concluded all the evidence, and after a somewhat lengthy plea from Mr. Webber on behalf of his client, and an equally long reply from Mr. Dennis, who informed the magistracy that it was a case for a jury, and that as his Worship was only an investigating magistrate he would be exceeding his powers if he discharged any of the prisoners.

Mr. Sercombe-Smith committed the prisoners for trial on the capital charge of murder.

TAIWANFOO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

24th May, 1888.

The most interesting item of news I can give you is that notifications have been issued from the German and American Consulates under instructions from the North to the following effect:—

"The levy of *lekin*, or inland dues on produce, the property of foreign merchants, either within the city, or on the way to Anping for shipment, is illegal, and that any losses, direct or indirect, sustained in consequence of such levy, will be made the subject of a claim against the Chinese Government."

With reference to Camphors.—The Camphor trading rules of 1869 are still in force, and if any less advantageous regulations be attempted to enforce the monopoly, this will also be made the subject of claims against the Chinese Government.

We understand that this is the result of united action on the part of all the foreign legations at Peking, and from what we hear, there can be no doubt but that business is meant. For some time prior to the issue of these notifications there has been more or less stir on the part of the native authorities; e.g. the leading spirit of mischief, to whom indeed has been due all the trouble, is stated to have threatened foreign compradors that unless they paid *lekin*, in spite of their foreign employers, he would urge the Government to impose a heavy tax under another name in the country, amounting to three times the *lekin*. No doubt the said compradors, remembering the anxiety the gentleman in question has always shown to levy and collect as much as possible, under plea of serving the Government, will argue that had he been able to raise a tax in the country no sentimental reason would have deterred him from doing so long ago. This effort, however, will suffice to show the manner in which "Imperial interests and service" are tended in South Formosa! The new name this gentleman, who by the way has been considered hitherto a great authority on foreign treaties and has favoured his dupes with most unique interpretations of the same, gives the *lekin* which he says will be substituted for it is "lost" in our eyes as all the trouble with foreigners has had special interest to the authorities, by reason of Westerners being thought to be about the best media for perpetrating illegalities and extortions, they dare not try on Hualan; this last threat may be taken for what it is worth. In a word Peking seems at last to be moving, alas! it seems almost too late. The port at present appears nearly ruined—in so far as conferring benefits on foreign trade, in the true sense of the term, South Formosa must make a new start ere she can hope to regain the position held before her disastrous provincial autonomy was decreed. The present Governor seems determined, not merely to neglect us, but so far as oppressive taxation and official apathy can effect it, to be firm in his resolve to wipe out his Southern command. If a kingdom thus divided against itself can stand, then will Li's self-imposed domain at Keelung and Tamsui flourish; but if this be so, the Bible is wrong, and Liu the converse!

Apart from local politics such would be a great triumph for Celestial scoffers who always have denied the impossibility of Sacred Writ. Even in the minutest detail, the Governor seems pertinaciously to try and injure this part of the island. Surely he is wrong! It seems hard to discover how on the 18th inst. the energy expended on the embryo city of the Tai-pai could fall to redound to immediate profit down here. Petroleum and coal are all round us, sugar, rice, turmeric, indigo, and hosts of other produce are ready to hand, but nothing seems capable of tempting either the cupidity, or compassion of our ruler, and so long as he remains, either in person or of the same mind, all seems blank and hopeless. Towards a country now overtaxed and otherwise oppressed that healthy stream of immigration, which at one time promised so well, is checked, and things are fast retrograding to the condition which it is decreed and appears, must soon satisfy even his utmost anticipations. Of course you know of our connection, through Tamsui, with the outer world by means of the wire, but as yet, beyond commercial convenience, considerably modified by repeated interruptions of line or cable, we don't seem to get news other than what the fortnightly steamer brings! Again, if the Chinese land-wires between any of the mainland ports are broken (e.g. between Canton and Hongkong) they refuse to take messages from us, quite ignoring the existence of the foreign companies, though they do not hesitate to assert that the completion of these last keep up the high rates charged foreigners as compared with the very moderate ones demanded of natives!

We have been hearing a good deal of 40-ton guns that are to come for mounting on Apes' Hill. Indeed we know they are in Shanghai. It would be worse than madness to bring them along at this time of the year, but how they are going to land them at any time is, as yet, a mystery to all. Beyond laying down a mud road which the rain renders butter-like in consistency nothing is being done, yet the task would, I imagine, worry a western Engineer a mile. The *Ellen McNeil* has arrived at the Pescadore fortifications there. We have had one first spell of heavy seas and high bar. The S.S. *Active*, bound for Tientsin, was detained three days, and we hear from Takow that the British barque *Lady Harwood* and German steamer *Mallia* have been, and indeed still are, detained in the harbour, on account of the sea or swell on the bar.

We have at last been favoured with a look at the British flag H.M.S. *Thetis* and *Mallia* came and anchored outside for 40 hours and then fled. I suppose they sent two ships, one for each year of the period during which we have been deserted, to show that it is merely indifference, not ill-will that has caused the neglect.—Let us hope they may improve for though our lives are safe, and as far as violence goes, even our property, still it is wonderful what a good moral effect a show of bunting has in impressing folk with the fact that we are not quite beyond the pale of notice by the nationalities to which we may profess to belong. It is a horrid bore for the naval authorities we know, but such is the fact, and we are selfish enough to hope that times may be changing or changed.

Ships in harbour here.—The sailing vessels *Thetis*, *Clare*, and *Babylon*, and the steamer *Thetis*. At Takow, the steamers *Independent* and *Mallia*, and the sailing vessel *Lady Harwood*, all these latter for Japan.

There have been some piratical attacks on native river-craft lately in the neighbourhood of Tientsin and Taku, and in view of the large number of richly laden rice-junks which will be about there during the next few weeks, the Taotai has ordered armed government junks to patrol from the 25th May.

Six or seven *li* from Chefoo, at Nanshan, the country people's pigs periodically fell a prey to the raids of wolves from the hills, which lately carried off a dog which annoyed them by barking as they prowled, with watering mouths, round a pig-sty, which had long excited their cupidity. The faithful night-watchman fell a victim to his loyalty, says the *Shen-pao*, poetically.

A letter from Wenchow reports the doings of a precious couple of habitual highway robbers, man and wife, of the name of Sie, in the neighbourhood of Crouching in a narrow pass, they waited the coming of a traveller, who was known to have \$55 and several hundred of copper cash with him. Mr. Sie went for him with a hoe, when he came within convenient distance, and Mrs. Sie, when he fell to the ground, not contented with relieving him of his dollars, also tore at his body and mutilated him in a frightful manner. The man was found dead. The fact that the "magistrate who went" at the request of the relations to hold an inquest on his body, also had to hold another inquest in a murder case in a place near on the same day, indicates that murders have been life near Wenchow lately. The *Shen-pao*, which gives this dreadful item, does not say whether the guilty persons have been arrested or not.

At Nanking there is a grand old Buddhist Temple called the Hwa Jan An. It stands by

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF RIVER WORKS IN HONAN.

Supplementing the information which we published in our last issue concerning the progress of the Yellow River reparation in Honan, our correspondent has given us the following further particulars.

For several months the work of conveying earth to the breach was carried on with great difficulty, as the workmen, being forbidden to dig earth near the embankments, had to go several *li* for it. Separate roads were assigned these men, some for those coming with their loads, and others for those going out with their empty wheelbarrows; soldiers were stationed to superintend the movements and prevent disturbance or confusion. In this manner perfect order was maintained, although many were disposed to shirk their work, and instead of carrying the regulation amount of earth, they would simply fill their baskets to one-half the capacity, and in various ways hindered the progress of the work by their idleness. Since the arrival of the portable railway, however, the method of working has assumed an entirely different aspect. The railway was laid down during the first part of the 3rd moon, and at once commenced work, to the unbounded delight and astonishment of all the officials and labourers. The work of earth carrying was accelerated ten times, and the little engine was a marvel of wonder to all beholders, who, one and all, declared that during a period of several hundred years of river works, no such wonderful machine had ever been witnessed.

Comparing the rapidity and gratefulness of its movements, with the slow exertions of panning and perspiring workmen, the difference is as vast as between heaven and earth, and besides, what a vast amount of earth will be saved to the Imperial Government by the employment of such exceedingly useful machinery!

Another item of improvement that has been introduced into the river works is the employment of electric lights. On account of the eagerness of the high commissioners and officers to celebrate the completion of the reparation, work was kept up day and night, and the cost of supplying candles to all the men for one single night amounted to many hundreds of taels. In fact the number of candles used was so enormous that the poor people who went among the workmen picking up the burnt up stumps night after night, actually became independent and well-off, by melting these stumps and re-making them into candles.

During last winter Governor Yi, of Honan, directed Kung, Taotai of Shanghai, to order through Frazer & Co., an electric lighting machine, and forward it to Honan via Ching-king-pu and thence per overland. This order was complied with, and on the first part of the 3rd moon the machine was set up in all, were set up and lighted. The brilliancy of the lights was so powerful that the minutest features of individuals could be clearly distinguished, and the scene reminded one of the legendary "city without nights." Aside from relieving the workmen the trouble of carrying the lanterns in their work, a large item of expenditure on the buying of candles will be saved. For many days after the electric lamps were set up, large numbers of people from all the country round within a circuit of several tens of *li* came, some in boats and others in carts, to behold the wonderful sights.

Still another innovation in the methods of river works is the use of steam-launches for the conveyance of materials and other purposes. Last winter two of these vessels were ordered in Shanghai, and they were completed some time since. They are now en route for their destination in Honan, going by way of Ching-king-pu, Hung-tse Lake, and the interior rivers.

All of the above three innovations, viz. the railway, the electric light, and the steam-launch, are Western inventions of great utility, and they are being used for the benefit of a people who blindly cling to whatever is unpractical and obsolete, but are deadly antagonistic to all that is useful or ingenious.

As an illustration of the fatuity of the people of Honan, their late strenuous opposition to the erection of telegraph lines through their province may be instanced. These ignorant people are unaware that although telegraphy is a Western invention yet electricity has long been a universal truth, that our own mechanics have learned the principles of the science, and are now able to establish telegraph lines independent of the services of foreigners.

Fortunately the provincial authorities of Honan have taken hold of the matter with a firm hand, and have determined to carry out the scheme regardless of the insensate opposition offered by popular prejudice and ignorance.—*Shih Pao*.

NOTES FROM CHINESE PAPERS.

For forty days no rain has fallen at Chefoo, and the barley is in a critical condition from the prolonged drouth.

At Ichang even after the 14th Ala ("beginning of summer," 5th May) the weather was as cold as in January or February.

A Japanese has been arrested at Hongkew with 24 boxes of smuggled sulphur in his house. He was sent to the Japanese Consul General, and the sulphur to the British Consulate, and the matter reported to the Mixed Court Magistrate Mr. Tsai.

There have been some piratical attacks on native river-craft lately in the neighbourhood of Tientsin and Taku, and in view of the large number of richly laden rice-junks which will be about there during the next few weeks, the Taotai has ordered armed government junks to patrol from the 25th May.

Six or seven *li* from Chefoo, at Nanshan, the country people's pigs periodically fell a prey to the raids of wolves from the hills, which lately carried off a dog which annoyed them by barking as they prowled, with watering mouths, round a pig-sty, which had long excited their cupidity. The faithful night-watchman fell a victim to his loyalty, says the *Shen-pao*, poetically.

A letter from Wenchow reports the doings of a precious couple of habitual highway robbers, man and wife, of the name of Sie, in the neighbourhood of Crouching in a narrow pass, they waited the coming of a traveller, who was known to have \$55 and several hundred of copper cash with him. Mr. Sie went for him with a hoe, when he came within convenient distance, and Mrs. Sie, when he fell to the ground, not contented with relieving him of his dollars, also tore at his body and mutilated him in a frightful manner. The man was found dead. The fact that the "magistrate who went" at the request of the relations to hold an inquest on his body, also had to hold another inquest in a murder case in a place near on the same day, indicates that murders have been life near Wenchow lately. The *Shen-pao*, which gives this dreadful item, does not say whether the guilty persons have been arrested or not.

At Nanking there is a grand old Buddhist Temple called the Hwa Jan An. It stands by

